A DISCOVRSE

Of a Diſcouerie *for a new Paſ-*

ſage to *Cataia.*

VVritten by Sir HVMFREY GILBERT, Knight.

Quid non?

Imprinted at *London by Henry* Middleton for *Richarde* Ihones.

ANNO. DOMINI. 1576.

Aprilis. 12.

GEORGE GASCOIGNE Esquire to the Reader.

EVery mã that *is of iudgment, & hath a reasonable disposition to the atteining of anie vertue, together with a discretion to vse the benefites of nature, will confesse, that we are by as great reason bounde to encourage and commend the industrie of the diligent, as to dispraise and punish the slouth or abuse of the negligent: For if princes doe not aswell reward and cherish the well deseruing subiecte, as their Iudges and Magistrates are readie to correct the offendour,*

the Common Wealth might then quickly be depriued both of the one and the other: I meane that as faſt as the ſword of Iuſtice ſhould weede out the one, ſo faſt the ſcourg of ingratitude woulde chaſe out the other. And ſo thereby their dominions might (in the end) become naked aud altogether vnfurniſhed.

We ſee the good huſwife is no leſſe curious to decke her bees hiue, to rub and perfume it with ſweete herbes, to couer and defend it from raine with clay and boordes, and to place it in the warme Sunſhine ſafe from the Northerly blaſtes: then Shee is readie to wreck her malice on the drones, to ſmoke and ſmoulder them with Bunte and Brimſtone,

ſtone, to fray and chaſe them out by ſoudain noyſe, and to kill them and caſte them away, as vnprofitable members in her Microcoſmos. *Yea, and with melodie of Baſons and Timbrils will ſhee welcome home her ſwarme, if at anye time they doe (waſpiſhly) goe aſtray, & yet at laſt retourne to their former abyding.*

Thus muche (gentle reader) I haue thought good (Allegorically) to write in the behalfe of the right worſhipful & my very frend S. Humfrey Gilbert *Knight, the true authour of this little (yet profitable) Pamphlet, intituled* A Diſcourſe of a Diſcouerie for a newe paſſage to Cataia, &c. *In*

whose Commendation I would fayne write asmuche as hee deserueth, were I not afrayde to bee condemned by him of flatterie: which blame (with my friendes) I vse not to deserue. But surely, ouer and besides that, hee is a gentleman wel and worshipfully borne and bredde, and well tryed to bee valiant in martiall affayres, wherby hee hath worthely beene constituted a Coronell and generall in places requisite, and hath with sufficiencie discharged the same; both in this Realme, and in forreigne Nations: hee is also indued with sundrie great gyftes of the minde, and generally well giuen to th'aduauncemente of knowledge

ledge and vertue. All whiche good partes I rather ſet downe conſtrained by the preſent occaſion, then prompted by any vaine deſire to currie fanoure with my friende: For his vertues are ſufficient to praiſe themſelues. And it ſhalbe a ſufficient concluſion for my prayſes, to wiſhe that our realme had ſtore of ſuche Gentlemen.

But as the good Gardener doth couer his tender herbes in winter, and cheriſhe them alſo in ſummer: ſo haue I thought my ſelfe bounden ſomewhat to ſay in the commendation of this preſent Treatiſe, and ſomewhat to anſwere vnto the obiections that might bee made by

such as list to cauill at euerie commendable enterprise.

And surely I cannot chuse, but highly prayse the noble minde and courage of the Authour, who more respectinge the publique profit that might .ensue by this Discouerie, *then the delicate life of a Courtier, well countenanced and fauoured both by his Prince and all the Nobilitie, had prepared his owne bodie to abide the malice of the windes and waues, and was euen ready to haue perfourmed the voyage in proper person, if he had not beene by her Maiestie otherwise commanded and imployed in martiall affaires, aswell in* Ireland, *as sithence in other places.*

You

You must herewith vnderstand (good Reader) that the authour bauinge a worshipfull Knight to his brother, who abashed at this enterprise (aswell for that he himselfe had none issue, nor other heier whome he ment to bestow his lands vpon, but onely this Authour, and that this voyage then seemed strãg and had not beene commonly spoken of before, as also because it seemed vnpossible vnto the common capacities) did seeme partly to mislike his resolutions, & to dissuade him from the same: thereupon he wrote this Treatise vnto his saide Brother, both to excuse and cleare himselfe from the note of rashnesse, and also to set downe

such Authorities, reasons, and experiences, as had chiefly encouraged him vnto the same, as may appeare by the letter next following, the which I haue here inserted for that purpose. And this was done about vij. yeares now past, sithence which time the originall copies of the same haue lien by the authour as one rather dreading to hazarde the Iudgements of curious perusers, then greedie of glorie by hasty publication.

Now it happened that my self being one (amongst manie) beholding to the said S. Humfrey Gilbert *for sundrie curtesies, did come to visit him in Winter last passed at his house in* Limehowse, *and being*

beeing verie bolde to demaunde of him howe he ſpente his time in this loytering vacation from martiall ſtratagemes, he curteouſly tooke me vp into his Studie, and there ſhewed me ſundrie profitable and verie cõmendable exerciſes, which he had perfected painefully with his owne penne: And amongſt the reſt this preſent Diſcouerie. The which as well becauſe it was not long, as alſo becauſe I vnderſtoode that M. Fourboiſer (a kinſman of mine) did pretend to trauaile in the ſame Diſcouerie, I craued at the ſaide S. Humfreyes handes for two or three dayes to reade and to peruſe. And hee verie friendly granted my requeſt, but ſtil ſeming to doubt

that thereby the same might, contrarie to his former determination, be Imprinted.

And to be plaine, when I had at good leasure perused it, & therwithall conferred his allegations by the Tables of Ortelius, *and by sundrie other* Cosmographicall Mappes *and* Charts, *I seemed in my simple iudgement not onely to like it singularly, but also thought it very meete (as the present occasion serueth) to giue it out in publike. Whereupon I haue (as you see) caused my friendes great trauaile, and mine owne greater presumption to be registred in print.*

But since I haue thus aduentured both his rebuke, and mine owne

reproofe,

reproofe, let me thus muche alledge in both our defences.

1 *First it is but a Pamphlet & no large discourse, & therefore the more to be borne withall: since the faults (if any be) shalbe the fewer, because the volume is not great.*

2 *Also it was ment by th'autour, but as a priuate Letter vnto his Brother for his better satisfaction: and therefore his imperfections therein (if any were) are to be pardoned, since it is very likely that if he had ment to publish the same, he would with greater heede haue obserued and perused the worke in euerie parte.*

3 *Againe, it commeth foorth without his consent: So that he had*

neither warning nor time to examine, nor yet to amende anie thing that were worthie misliking.

4 *Furthermore it treateth of a matter whereof no man hath heretofore written particularly, nor shewed ani approued reason for the same. So that not onely his trauaile and paine are very commendable (who out of sundrie Authorities woulde gather one reasonable coniecture) but also the worke is not to be thought bareine, although it doe not fully prooue somuch as may be expected, since he that plougheth in a flintie fielde, speedeth well if he reape but an indifferent crop.*

5 *And last of all it is to bee considered, that of thinges vncer-*

taine,

taine, the greateſt Clerke that euer was could write but probably.

Herewithall, as I haue preposterouſly anſwered ſuch obiections as might be made againſt it, So now let mee ſay that a great learned man (euen M. Dee*) doth ſeeme very well to like of this* Diſcouerie *and doth much commende the Authour, the which he declareth in his* Mathematical *preface to th'engliſh* Euclide. *I refer thee (Reader) to peruſe the ſame, and thinke it not ſtrange though I be encouraged by ſo learned a foreleader, to ſet forth a thing whiche hee ſo well liked of.*

To conclude, whereas other Coſmographical *workes do but*

shew vs things already knowen & treated of, this Discouerie *doeth tend to a very profitable and commendable practise of a thing to bee discouered. So that I thought it my part, both for great good will to the authour, and for publike performance of a common duetie, to commend a little Bee so much commẽdable, to defend it from the stormes of obiections, with boords and clay of direct answers: To set it in the sunshine (as you see) and to ring it out with my best basons, for the better expressing of such ioye & comfort, as I haue therein conceiued.*

All whiche, together with the frendly cõstructions of th'authours trauaile and my boldnes, I cõmend

(gentle

(gentle reader) vnto thy curteous consideration, wishinge vnto thee, much profite by perusing this treatise, vnto the authour, much prayse according to his deserts, to my kinsman (who nowe attẽpteth to proue the same discouery) happy returne, and to my selfe, some thankes and none ill will, for my presumption.

So that the Authour being therby incouraged, may be the more willing hereafter to publish some other well worthy which he hath in readinesse, and whereof hee hath made me alreadie an eyedwitnes. Farewell.

From my lodging where I march amongst the Muses for lacke

of exerciſe in martiall exploytes,
this 12. *of* April. 1576.

A friend to all well
willing Readers.

George Gaſcoine.

A Pro-

A PROPHETICAL SONNET of the same *George Gascoine*, vpon the commendable trauaile which Sir Humfrey Gilbert *hath disclosed in this worke.*

Men praise Columbus *for the passing skil*
Which he declared, in Cosmographie,
And nam'd him first (as yet we cal him stil)
The 2. Neptune, *dubd by dignity.*
Americus Vesputius, *for his paine,*
Neptune *the* 3. *ful worthely was named,*
And Magellanus, *by good right did gaine,*
Neptune *the* 4. *ful fitly to be famed.*
But al those three, and al the world beside,
Discouered not, a thing of more emprice,
Then in this booke, is learnedly descride,
By vertue of my worthie friendes deuice.
Yf such successe, to him (as them) then fall,
Neptune *the* 5. *we iustly may him call.*

Tam Marti quam Mercurio.

¶A LETTER OF SIR *Humfrey Gilbert, Knight, ſent to* his Brother, Sir IOHN GILBERT, of *Compton, in the Countie of Deuon Knight,* concerning the diſcourſe of *this Diſcouerie.*

SIR, YOV might iuſtly haue charged mee with an vnſetled head if I had at any time taken in hand, to diſcouer *Vtopia*, or any countrey fained by imagination: But *Cataia* is none ſuch, it is a countrey, well knowen to be deſcribed and ſet foorth by all moderne *Geographers*, whoſe authoritie in this art (contrarie to all other) bea-

reth moſt credit, and the paſſage thereunto, by the *Northweſt* from vs, through a ſea which lieth on the *Northſide* of *Labrador*, mencioned & prooued, by no ſmal number of the moſt expert, and beſt learned amongſt them. By whoſe authoritie, if I (amongeſt others) haue beene moued, to hope of that paſſage, who can iuſtly blame me? ſith euerie man is beſt to be credited and beleeued, in his owne profeſſed art and ſcience, wherin he doth moſt excell.

Cuiquẽ in ſua arte credendum eſt.

And if I would not giue that credit, to thoſe authours which they deſerue, but were ſo wedded vnto my owne ignorance, that

that neither the authoritie of learned *Geographers*, the reasons of wise *Philosophers*, nor the experience of painfull *Trauellers*, might persuade me to belieue a trueth: Then might I iustly be accompted selfe willed (which a learner ought chiefly to eschewe) holding for a *Maxime*, that, *Discentem oportet credere*. And knowing you to be one that may easily be induced to hearken, and yeelde to reason, I wil! briefly opẽ vnto you, some fewe of the grounds of mine opinion, to the ende you may the better vnderstãd, that my hope of this discouerie and passage, was not so rashe, or foolishe, as

you

you heretofore haue deemed: but contrariwiſe, grounded vpon a very ſure foundation, and that not vnaduiſedly, but after long conſideration & great conferẽce, had with ſuch as I knew to be both wiſe, learned, and of great experience, as well touching this paſſage, as the wonderfull welth and commodities, which might, and would enſue thereby, it being once diſcouered: whoſe abundance of riches & treaſure, no man of learning, and iudgement doubteth, for that the countreys themſelues, and their commodities, are apparantly knowen by ſundrie mens experience.

But

But as it is one thing to ſpeak, and an other by reaſon to confirme, ſo I wil briefly do my indeuour to proue the ſame. And haue herewithall ſent you, for your better vnderſtandinge, a rough draught, of a vniuerſall Map in the end of the boke, ſufficiēt to explane the matter, with thoſe names only in effect which are mencioned in this diſcourſe: to the ende that by reſorting to this general Mappe, &c. finding without difficultie, euerie particular place mencioned herein, you may the better gather my meaning, and conceiue my reaſons, alledged for the proofe of this paſſage, nowe in queſtion:

¶¶¶¶.i. which

which I wil proue three wayes.
Al which, I haue diuided into ſeuerall chapters, which may fully deliuer vnto you the whol contents of this worke, by their ſeuerall titles: as followeth.
Fare you well from my lodging the laſt of Iune, Anno D.
1566.

Your louing Brother
Humfrey Gilbert.

The

The Table of the matters conteyned in euerie Chapter of this Booke.

Capitulo 1.

TO proove by authoritie a passage to be on the Northside of America, to goe to Cataia, China, and to the East India.

Capitulo 2.

To proove by reason, a passage to be on the North side of America, to goe to Cataia, the Mulluccæ, &c

Capitulo 3

To proove by experience of sundrie mens travails the opening of some parte of this Northwest passage, whereby good hope remaineth of the rest.

Capitulo 4.

To proove by Circumstance, that the Northwest passage hath bene sayled through out.

Capitulo 5.

To proove that suche Indians as haue bene driuen vpon the coastes of Germanie came not thither by ỹ Southeast, Southwest nor from any part of Afrik or America.

Capitulo 6.

To proove that the Indians aforenamed came not by the Northeast, and that there is no thorow passage Nauigable that way.

The Table.

Capitulo 7.
To prooue that these Indians came by the Northwest, which induceth a certaintie of this passage by experience.

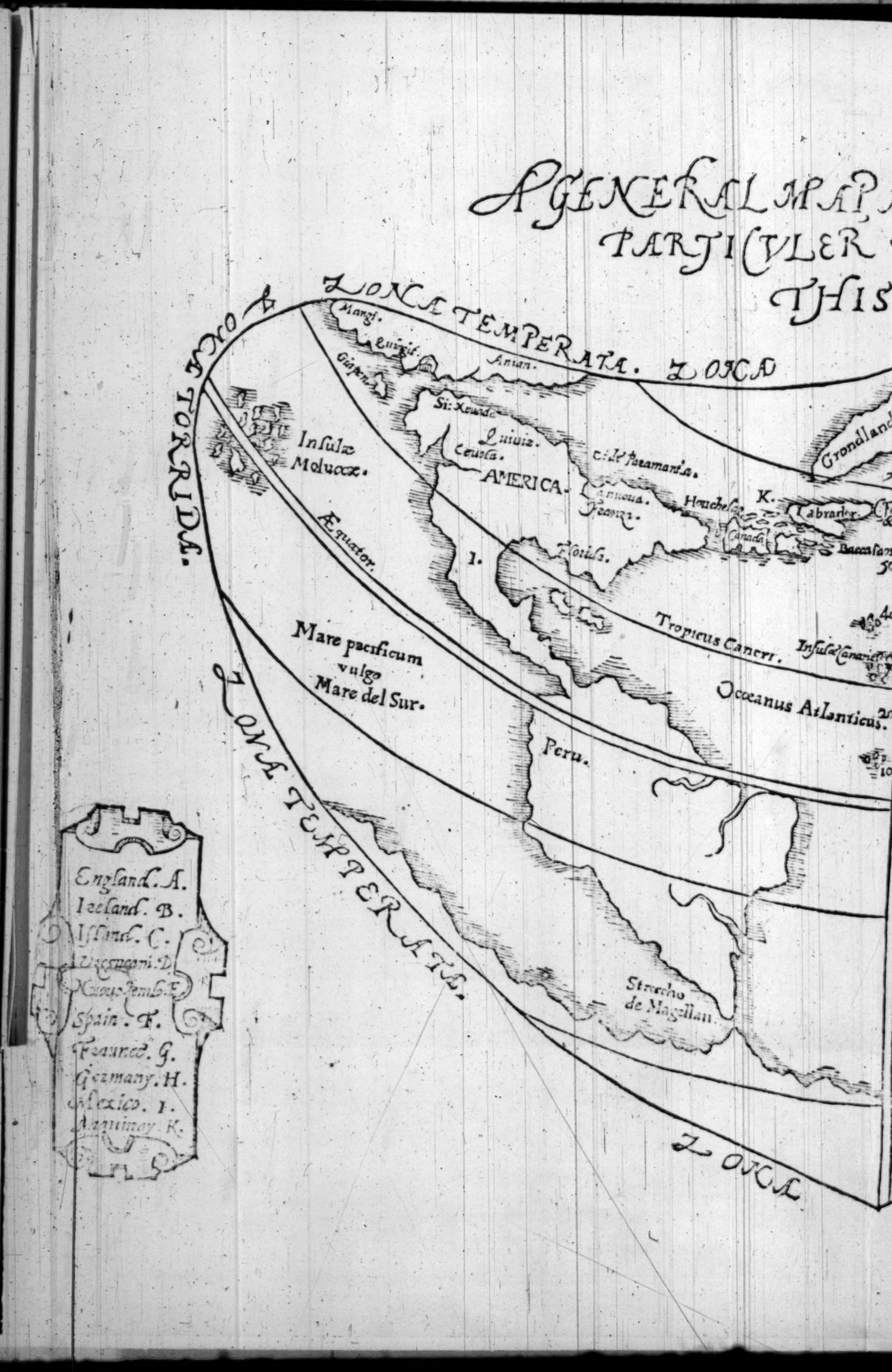
Capitulo 8.
What seuerall reasons, were alledged before the Queenes Maiestie, & certaine Lordes of her Highnes priuie Counsell, by a Gentleman of great trauaile and experience, to prooue this passage by the Northeast, with my seuerall answeres then alledged to the same.

Capitulo 9.
How that this passage by the Northwest, is more commodious for our traffike, then the other by the Northeast, if there were any such.

Capitulo 10.
What commodities would ensue, this passage being once discouered.

FINIS.

Map faces this page, verso qqqq ii


A GENERAL MAP
PARTICVLER
THIS
ZONA TEMPERATA. ZONA
ZONA TORRIDA.
Mangi.
Quinsit.
Giapon.
Anian.
Si: Xeuada
Quiuia.
Ceuola.
AMERICA.
Insulæ Moluccæ.
Æquator.
Grondland
Houchelaga
K.
Labrador.
Canada
Baccalaos
Florida.
I.
Tropicus Cancri.
Insulæ Canariæ
Mare pacificum vulgo Mare del Sur.
Oceanus Atlanticus.
Peru.
ZONA TEMPERATA.
Strecho de Magellan.
ZONA
England. A.
Ireland. B.
Island. C.
Spain. F.
Fraunce. G.
Germany. H.
Mexico. I.

P MADE ONELYE FOR THE
R DECLARATION OF
IS DISCOVERY.
FRIGIDA
ZONA TEMPERATA.
ZONA TORRIDA.
ZONA TEMPERATA
FRIGIDÆ.
Tangut.
Cataio.
China
ASIA.
EVROPA.
Natolia.
M. Mediterraneum.
Barbaria.
Mons Atlas.
AFRICA.
Tropicus Capricorni.
C: de buona Speranza.
QVID NOM?

Map faces this page, verso of 999

To proue a paſſage by authoritie *to be on the Northſide of* AMERICA; to goe to CATAIA, *China*, and the Eaſt *India*. &c.

WHen I gaue my ſelf to the ſtudie of Geographie, after I had peruſed & diligently ſcanned the deſcriptions of Europe, Aſia, and Affrike, and conferred them with the Mappes and Globes both Antique & Moderne: I came in fine to the fourth part of the worlde, cõmonly called AMERICA, which by al deſcriptiõs I founde to be an Ilande enuironed round about with the Sea, hauing on the ſouth ſide of it, the frete, or ſtrayte of Magellan, on the Weſt ſide Mare de ſur, which Sea runneth towardes the North, ſeparating it from the Eaſt parts of Aſia, where the dominions of the Cataians are, On the Eaſt part our Weſte Ocean, and on the Northſide the ſea that ſeuereth it frõ Grondland, thorow which Northern ſeas, the paſſage lyeth, which I take now in hande to diſcouer.

Plato in Timeo, and in the Dialogue called Critias, diſcourſeth of an incomparable great

great Ilande, the called Atlantis, being greater then all Affrik, and Asia, whiche laye Westward from the Straits of Gibraltar, Nauigable round aboute: affirming also that the Princes of Atlantis, did aswel enioye the gouernaunce of all Affrik, and the most part of Europe, as of Atlantis it selfe.

Also to prooue Platoes opinion of this Ilande, and the inhabyting of it in aūcient tyme, by them of Europe, to be of the more credit: Marineus Siculus, in his Chronicle of Spayne, reporteth that there hath ben foūd by the Spaniardes, in the Golde Mynes of America, certeine peeces of Money, ingraued w the Image of Augustus Cæsar: which peeces were sent vnto the Pope, for a testimonie of the matter, by Iohn Rufus, Archebishop of Cosentinum.

Moreouer, this was not onely thought of Plato, but by Marsilius Ficinus, an excellēt Florentine Philosopher, Crantor the Græcian, Proclus, & also Philo the famous Ievve, (as appeareth in his booke De Mundo, & in the Cōmentaries vpon Plato) to be ouerflowen, and swallowed vp with water, by reason of a mightie Earthquake, and streamyng downe of the heauenly Fludgates.

Proclus pag. 24.

The

The like whereof happened vnto some part of Italie, whē by the forciblenes of the Sea, called Superum, it cut of Cicilia from the Continent of Calabria, as appeareth in Iustine, in ỹ beginning of his fourth boke. Also there chaunced the like in Zelande a part of Flaunders. Iustine Lib. 4.

And also the cities of Pyrrha, and Antissa, aboute Meotis Palus, with the Citie Burys, in the Corynthian bosome, cōmonly called Sinus Corynthiacus, haue bene swallowed vp with the sea, and are not at this day to be discerned: By which accident, America grew to be vnknowen of long time, vnto vs of the later ages, and was lately discouered again, by Americus Vespucius, in the yere of our Lord, 1497. which some say to haue bene first discouered, by Christopherus Columbus, a Genuest. Anno. 1492. Plinie.

The same calamity hapned vnto this Isle of Atlantis 600. odd yeres before Plato his time, which some of ỹ people of the south-east parts of ỹ world accompted as 9000. yeres: for the manner then was to recone the moone, her Period of the Zodiak for a yere, which is our vsuall moneth, depending a Luminari minore.

So that in these our dayes there can no

other mayne or Ilande bee founde, or iudged to be parcell of this Atlantis, then those Westerne Ilandes, which beare now the name of AMERICA: counteruailing thereby the name of Atlantis, in the knowledge of our age.

Then, if when no part of the said Atlantis was oppressed by water, & earthquake, the coastes rounde about the same were nauigable: a far greater hope now remaineth of the same by the Northwest, seeing the most parte of it was, since that time, swalowed vp with water, which coulde not vtterly take away the olde deepes and chanels, but rather, be an occasion of the inlarging of the olde, and also an inforcing of a great many new: why then should we nowe doubte of our Northwest passage & nauigation from Englande to India? &c. seeing that Atlãtis, now called AMERICA, was euer knowen to be an Ilande, and in those days nauigable round about, which by accesse of more water coulde not be diminished.

A minore ad maius.

Also Aristotle in his boke De Mundo, and the learned Germane, Simon Gryneus in his annotations vpon the same, saith that the

the whole earth (meaning thereby as manifestly doth appeare, Asia, Afrik and Europe, being al the countreis then knowen) to be but on Ilande, cōpassed about with ẏ reach of the Sea Atlantine: which likewise approueth AMERICA to be an Iande, and in no parte adioyning to Asia, or the rest.

Also many Auncient writers, as Strabo & others, called both the Ocean sea (which lieth East of India) Atlanticū pelagus, and that Sea also on the west coasts of Spayne & Afrik, Mare Atlanticum: the distance betweene which two coastes, is almost halfe the compasse of the earth. *Strabo lib. 15.*

So that it is incredible, as by Platō appeareth manifestly, that the East Indian sea had the name Atlanticum pelagus, of the Mountaine Atlas in Afrik, or yet the Sea adioining to Afrik had name Oceanus Atlanticus, of the same mountaine: but ẏ those Seas and the mountaine Atlas, were so called of this great Ilande Atlantis, and that the one & the other, had their names for a memoriall of the mightie prince Atlas, sometime King therof, who was Iaphet youngest sonne to Noah, in whose time the *Valerius Anselmus in Catalogo annorum et principum, fol. 6.*

whole earth was diuided betweene the three bretherne, Sem, Cam, and Iaphet.

Genesis the 9. and 10.

Wherefore I am of opinion that America by the Northwest, wilbe founde fauorable to this our enterprise, and am the rather imboldened to beleeue the same, for that I finde it not onely confirmed by Plato, Aristotle, and other auncient Philosophers: but also by al the best moderne Geographers, as (Gemma Frisius, Munsterus, Appianus, Hunterus, Costaldus, Guyzardin⁹, Michael Tramesinus, Franciscus Demongenitus, Barnardus Puteanus, Andreas Vauasor, Tramontanus, Petrus Martyr, and also Hortelius) who doth coaste out in his generall Mappe (set out Anno 1569.) al ỹ coūtreys and capes, on the Northwestside of America, from Houchelaga to C. De Paramantia: describing likewise ỹ sea coasts of Cataia and Grondland, towardes any part of America, making both Grondland & America, Ilands disioyned by a great sea, from any part of Asia.

Al which learned men and painful trauellers haue affirmed, with one consent & voice, that America was an Iland: & ỹ there lyeth a great Sea betweene it, Cataia, and Grondland, by the which any man of our countrey, that wil giue the attempt,

may

may with ſmal danger paſſe to Cataia, the Moluccæ, India, & al other places in ỹ Eaſt, in much ſhorter time, then either the Spaniard, or Portingale doth, or may do, from the neereſt parte of any of their countreis within Europe.

What mooued theſe learned men to affirme thus much, I know not, or to what end ſo many & ſundrye trauellers, of both ages, haue allowed the ſame: But I coniecture that they would neuer haue ſo conſtantly affirmed, or notified their opinions therein to the world, if they had not had great good cauſe, and many probable reaſons, to haue lead them thereunto.

We ought by reaſons right to haue a reuerent opinion of worthy men.

Now leaſt you ſhould make ſmal accompt of ancient writers or of their experiences, which trauelled long before our times, reconing their authority amongſt fables of no importance: I haue for the better aſſurance of thoſe proofes, ſet down ſome part of a diſcourſe, writtẽ in the Saxon tongue, and tranſlated into Engliſh by M. Nowel Seruaunte to Maiſter Secretarie Cecill, wherein there is deſcribed a Nauigation, which one Ochther made, in the time of Kinge ALFRED, Kinge of Weſtſaxe

Now Lord Burleighe & highe Treaſurer of England.

ANauigation, of one *Ochther* made in king *Alfreds* tyme.

Anno. 871. the wordes of which discourse were these: He sayled right North, hauing alvvayes the desert land on the Starborde, and on the Larbord, the mayne sea, cõtinueing his course, vntill he perceiued that the coaste bowed directly tovvardes the East, or else the Sea opened into the land he coulde not tel hovv far, vvhere he vvas compelled to staye, vntil he had a vvesterne vvinde, or somevvhat vpon the North, and sayled thence directly East, alongst the coast, so farre as he vvas able in foure dayes, vvhere he vvas againe inforced to tary, vntil he had a North vvind, because the coast there bowed directly towardes the South, or at least opened, he knew not how far into the land, so that he sayled thence along the coaste continually ful South, so farre as he could trauel in the space of fiue dayes, vvhere he discouered a mightie riuer, vvhiche opened farre into the lande, and in the entrye of this riuer he turned backe againe.

A perfect Description of our *Muscouia* voyage.

Wherby it appeareth, that he went the verye same waye, that we now do yearely trade by S. Nicholas into Muscouia, whiche way no man in our age knewe, for certeintie to be sea, vntill it was since discouered by our English men, in the time of King Edvvarde the sixt: but thought before that time

By Sir *HVGH WYLLOWBE*, Knight, Chauncellor and bocough.

time that Grondlande had ioyned to Normoria Byarmia, and therfore was accompted a newe discouerie, being nothing so in deede, as by this discourse of Ochthets it appeareth.

Neuertheles if any man shoulde haue take this voiage in hand, by the incouragment of this onely author, he should haue beene thought but simple: considering that this Nauigation was writte so many yeares past, in so barbarous a tongue by one onely obscure author, and yet wee in these our dayes finde by our owne experiences, his former reports to be true.

How much more then, ought we to beleue this passage to Cataia to be, being verified by the opinions of all the best, both Antique, and Moderne Geographers, & plainly set out in the best & most allowed Mappes, Charts, Globes, Cosmographicall tables, and discourses, of this our age, and by the rest, not denyed, but left as a matter doubtfull.

A newe passage

To proue by reason, a passage to be on the Northside of AMERICA: to goe to CATAIA, &c,

Cap. 2.

FIrst, al seas are maintained by the abundance of water, so that ẏ nerer the end, any Riuer, Baye or Hauẽ is, the shallower it wareth, (although by some Occidental barre, it is somtime found otherwise) But the farther you saile West, from Island, towards ẏ place, wher this fret is thought to be, the more deeper are the seas: which giueth vs good hope, of continuance of ẏ same sea, vo Mare de Sur, by some frete that lyeth betweene America, Grondlande, and Cataia.

Experimented by our english fishers.

2 Also, if that America were not an Iland, but a part of the continent adioining to Asia, either the people which inhabite Mangia, Anian, and Quinzay, &c being borderers vpon it, would before this time, haue made some roade into it: hoping to haue found some like cõmodities to their owne.

3 Or els the Scythians, and Tartarians, (which often times hertofore, haue sought far and nere, for new seates, driuen thereunto, through the necessitie of their colde, and miserable countreys) would in al this time, haue found the way to America, & entred ỹ same, had the passages bene neuer so strayte, or difficult: the countrie beeing so temperate, pleasaunte and fruitfull, in comparison of their owne. But there was neuer any such people found there, by any of the Spaniardes, Portingals, or Frenchemen, who firste discouered the Inlande of that Countrie: which Spaniardes, or Frenchemen, must then of necessitie, haue seene some one Ciuil man in America, considering how full of ciuil people Asia is: But they neuer sawe so muche as one token, or signe, that euer any man of the knowen part of the worlde, had beene there.

Neede makes the olde wife to trotte.

4 Furthermore, it is to be thought, ỹ if by reason of mountains, or other craggy places, ỹ people neither of Cataia, or Tartarie could enter ỹ coũtrie of America, or they of America, haue entred Asia, if it were so ioyned: yet some one sauage, or wãdring beast wold in so many yeres, haue passed into it: but there hath not at any time been found

any of ỹ beasts proper to Cataia, or Tartarie &c. in America: nor of those proper to America, in Tartarie, Cataia, &c. or ani part of Asia

Which thing proueth America, not only to be one Iland, and in no part adioyning to Asia, But also that the people of those Countreyes, haue not had any traffyke with eache other.

5 Moreouer, at the leaste some one of those painefull trauellors, which of purpose haue passed the Confines of both coũtreys, with intent only to discouer, would, (as it is most likely) haue gone from the one to the other: if there had bene any piece of lande, or Ismos, to haue ioyned thẽ together, or else haue declared some cause to the contrary.

6 But neither Paulus venetus, who lyued, and dwelt a long time, in Cataia, euer came into America, and yet was at the Sea coastes of Mangia, ouer against it, where he was imbarked, and perfourmed a great Nauigation along those Seas: Neither yet Verarzanus, or Franciscus vasques de Coronado, who trauelled the North parte of America by lande, euer founde entrye from thẽce by land, to Cataia, or any part of Asia.

7 Also

7 Also it appeareth to be an Iland, in somuche as the Sea runneth by nature circularly, from the East to the VVest, following the Diurnal motion of Primum Mobile, and carieth with it all inferiour bodies moueable, aswel celestial, as elemẽtal: which motion of ỹ waters, is most euidẽtly seene in the Sea, which lyeth on the Southside of Afrik, where the currant that runneth from the East to the VVest, is so strong (by reason of such motion) that the Portingales in ỹ voiages, Eastvvard to Callecute, in passing by Cap. De buona speranca, are enforced to make diuers courses, the currant there being so swift, as it striketh frõ thence, all along VVestvvard, vpon the fret of Magellan, being distant frõ thence, nere the fourth parte of the longitude of the earth: and not hauing free passage & entrance, thorow that fret towardes the West, by reason of the narrowneſſe of the said straite of Magellan, it runneth to salue this wrong (Nature not yelding to accidẽtall rèstraintes) all along the Easterne coasts of America, Northvvardes, so farre as Cap. Fredo, beeing the farthest knowen place of the saine continent, towardes the North: which is about, 4800. leagues, reconing therewithal the trending of the land.

The Sea hath three motions
1 *Motum ab oriente in occidentem.*
2 *Motum fluxus et refluxus.*
3 *Motum circularem.*
Ad cæli motum elementa omnia (excepta terra) mouentur.

8 So that this Currant, being continually maintained with such force, as Iaques Cartier affirmeth it to be, who mette with the same being at Baccalaos, as he sailed alongst the coastes of America, then, either it must of necessitie, haue way to passe from Cap. Fredo, thorowe this frete, Westwarde towardes Cataia, being knowen to come so farre, onely to salue his former wronges, by the authoritie before named: or els it must needes strike ouer, vpon the coast of Island, Lappia, Finmarke, & Norvvay, (which are East from the said place, about 360. Leagues) with greater force, then it did from Cap. de buona Speranca, vpon the fret of Magellan, or from the frete of Magellan to Cap. Fredo, vpon whiche coastes, Iaques Cartier mette with the same, considering the shortnes of the Cut, from the said C. Fredo, to Island, Lappia, &c. And so the cause Efficient remaining, it would haue continually followed along our coastes, through the narrowe seas, which it doth not, but is disgested about the North of Labrador, by some through passage there, thorow this fret.

Posita causa, ponitur effectus.

Conterenus. The like course of the water, in some respect, happeneth in the Mediterrane Sea (as affirmeth Conteren°) wheras the currant, which

which cõmeth from Tanijs, & the sea Euxinus, running along al the coasts of Greece, Italie, Fraunce, and Spaine, and not finding sufficient way out through Gibralter, by meanes of the straitnes of the fret, it runneth back againe, alongst the coasts of Barbarie, by Alexandria, Natolia, &c.

It may (peraduenture) be thought, that this course of the sea, doth sometime surcease, and therby impugne this principle, because it is not discerned all along the coast of America, in such sort as Iaques Cartier found it: Whereunto I answere this: that albeit, in euerie parte of the Coaste of America, or els where, this Currant is not sensibly perceiued, yet, it hath euermore such like motion, either in the vppermost, or nethermost parte of the sea: as it may be proued true, if ye sinke a sayle by a couple of ropes, nere the ground, fastening to ỹ nethermost corners, two gun chãbers, or other weights: by the driuing whereof you shal plainly perceiue, the course of the water, and Currant, running with such like course in the bottome.

An Obiection answered.

The Sea doth euermore performe this circular motion, either in *Suprema*, or *concaua superficie aquæ.*

By the like experiment, you may finde the ordinarie motion of the sea, in the Ocean: how farre soeuer you be of the land.

9 Also there commeth another Currant frō out the Northeast from the Scythian Sea (as M. Iynkinson a man of rare vertue, great trauaile and experience, told me) which runneth Westwarde towardes Labrador, as the other did, which commeth from the South: so that both these Currants, must haue way thorowe this our frete, or else incounter together and runne contrary courses, in one line, but no suche conflictes of streames, or contrary courses are found about any parte of Labrador, or Terra noua, as witnesse our yerely fishers, and other saylers that way, but is there disgested, as aforesaid, and founde by the experience of Barnard de la Tore, to fall into Mare del Sur.

Ex Nihilo, nihil fit. One, and the self same place in the earth, may be both East and West in sundry respects: so that this Oriental motion of the water, is brought to be circular (without repugnancie) by the regular course of *Primum Mobile.*

10 Furthermore, the Currant in the great Ocean, could not haue beene maintained to runne continually one way, from the beginning of the world, vnto this day had there not bene some thorow passage by the frete aforesaide, and so by circular motion, be brought againe to maintaine it selfe: For the Tides, and courses of the Sea, are maintained by their interchangeable motions: as freash riuers are by springes, by ebbing and flowing, by rarifaction and condensation.

denſation.

So that it reſteth not poſſible (ſo farre as my ſimple reaſon can comprehend) that this perpetual currant, can by any meanes be maintained, but only by continual reacceſſe of the ſame water, which paſſeth thorow the fret, and is brought about thither againe, by ſuche Circular motion as afore ſaid. And the certaine falling thereof by this fret, into Mare de ſur, is proued by the teſtimonie and experience, of Barnarde del la Torre, who was ſent frõ P. del la Natiuita, to the Mulluccæ, Anno. Dom. 1542. by cõmandement of Anthonie Mendoza, then Viceroy of Noua Hiſpania, which Barnarde, ſayled 750. Leagues, on the Northſide of the AEquator, and there mette with a currant, which came from the Northeaſt, and droue him backe againe to Tidore.

The flowing is occaſioned by reaſon that the heate of the moone boyleth, and maketh the water thinne by way of rarefaction. And the ebbing cõmeth for want of that heate, which maketh the water to fal againe by way of condenſation. An experience to prooue the falling of this Currant, into *Mare del Sur.*

Wherfore, this currant being proued to come from C. de buona Speranca, to the fret of Magellan, and wanting ſufficient entrance there, by narrownes of the ſtraite, is by ỹ neceſſitie of natures force, brought to Terra de Labrador, where Iaques Cartier met ỹ ſame, æthẽce certainly knowen, not to ſtrike ouer vpon Iſland, Lappia, &c. and founde by Barnarde de la Torre, in Mare del

Sur, on the backeside of America, therefore, this currant (hauing none other passage) must of necessitie, fall out thorow this our fret into Mare del Sur, & so trending by the Mulluccæ, China, and C. De buona, speranca, maintaineth itself by circular motiõ which is all one in nature, with Motus ab Oriente in Occidentem.

So that it seemeth, we haue now more occasion to doubt of our returne, thẽ whether there be a passage that way, yea or no: which doubt, hereafter shalbe sufficiently removed. Wherefore, in mine opinion, reason it selfe, grounded vpon experience, assureth vs of this passage, if there were nothing els to put vs in hope thereof. But least these might not suffise, I haue added in this Chapiter followinge, some further proofe hereof, by the experience of such as haue passed some part of this discouerie: and in the next adioyning to that, the authoritie of those, whiche haue sayled wholy, thorowe euerie part thereof.

To proue by experience of sundrie mens trauels, the opening of some part of this Northvvest passage: whereby good hope remaineth of the rest.

Paulus

Cap. 3.

Paulus Venetus, who dwelt many yeres in Cataia, affirmed that he sailed, 1500 myles, vpon the coastes of Mangia, and Anian, towards the Northeast: alwayes finding the Seas open before him, not onely as farre as he went: but also as far as he could discerne.

2 Also, Franciscus Vasques de Coronado, passing frō Mexico by Ceuola, through the countrey of Quiuir, to Sierra Neuada, found there a great Sea, where were certaine Ships laden with Merchandize, the mariners wearing on their heades the pictures of certaine birdes, called Alcatrarzi, part whereof were made of golde, & parte of siluer: who signified by signes, that they were 30. dayes comming thither: whiche likewise prooueth, America by experience, to be disioyned from Cataia, on that part, by a great Sea, because they coulde not come from any parte of America, as Natiues thereof: for that, so far as it is discouered, there hath not bene founde there, any one Shippe of that Countrey.

Baros lib.9. Of his first Decas. cap.1.

3 In like maner, Iohan. Baros, testifieth ꝑ the Cosmographers of China (where he himself had bene) affirme ꝑ the Sea coast, trẽdeth frõ thẽce, Northeast, to 50. degrees, of Septentrional latitude, being the farthest parte that way, whiche the Portingals had then knowledge of: And that the said Cosmographers, knewe no cause to the contrarie, but that it might continue further.

By whose experiences, America is ꝓued to be seperate from those partes of Asia, directly against the same. And not cõtented with the iudgements of these learned men only, I haue serched, what might be further said, for the confirmatiõ hereof.

Lopes in his hystorie of India.

4 And I found, that Franciscus Lopes de Gomara, affirmeth, (America) to be an Iland, and likewise Grondland: and that Grondland is distant from Lappia. 40. leagues, & from Terra de Labrador, 50.

5 Moreouer, Aluerus Nunnius, a Spaniarde and learned Cosmographer, and Iacobus Cartier, who made two voyages, into those partes, and sayled 500. myles, vpon the Northeast coasts of America.

6 Likewise, Hieronimus Fracastorius, a learned Italian, and traueller, in the North parts

parts of the same land.

7 Also Verarsannus, a Florentine, hauing done ꝑ like, heard say at Houchelaga in Noua Francia, how ꝑ there was a great Sea at Saguinay, whereof the ende was not knowen: which they presupposed to be the passage to Cataia.

8 Furthermore, Sebastian Gabota, by his personall experience, and trauell, hath set foorth, and described this passage, in his Charts, whiche are yet to bee seene, in the Queenes Maiesties priuie Gallerie, at VVhite hall, who was sent to make this discouerie by king Henrie the seauenth, & entred the same fret: affirming, that he sailed very far vvestward, with a quarter of the North, on the Northside of Terra de Labrador, the eleuenth of Iune, vntil he came to the Septentrional latitude of 67 ½ degrees & finding the Seas still open, said, that he might, & would haue gone to Cataia, if the Mutinie of the Maisters & Mariners, had not ben. Writen in the discourses of Nauigation.

Now, as these mens experience, haue proued some parte of this passage: so the Chapter following, shal put you in full assurance of ꝑ rest, by their experiẽces which haue passed thorow euery part thereof.

A newe passage

To proue by circumstance, that the Northvvest passage, hath beene sayled thorough out.

Cap. 4.

Quinque sensus.
1 *Visus.*
2 *Auditus.*
3 *Olfactus.*
4 *Gustus.*
5 *Tactus.*
Singularia sensu, vniuersalia vero mente percipiuntur.

The diuersity betwene bruite beastes and men, or betwene the wise and the simple, is that the one iudgeth by sense onely, & gathereth no suertie of anye thing that he hath not sene, sealt, heard, tasted, or smelled: And the other not so onely, but also findeth the certaintie of things by reason, before they happen to be tryed. Wherfore, I haue added proofes of both sortes, that the one and the other, might thereby be satisfied.

1 First, as Gemma Frisius reciteth, there went from Europe, 3 brethren through this passage: whereof it tooke the name, of Fretum trium fratrum.

lib. 2. cap. 86.

2 Also, Plinie affirmeth, out of Cornelius Nepos, (who wrote 57. yeres before Christ) that there were certain Indians driuen by tempest, vpon the coast of Germanie which

which were presented by ỹ King of Sueuia, vnto Quintus Metellus Celer, then Proconsul of Fraunce.

3 And Plinie, vpon the same, saith that it is no maruel, though there be Sea by the North, where there is such abundance of moisture: which argueth, that he doubted not of a Nauigable passage that way, thorow which those Indians came.

4 And for the better prose, that the same authoritie of Cornelius Nepos, is not by me wrested, to prooue my opinion of the Northvvest passage: you shal finde the same affirmed more plainely in that behalfe, by the excellent Geographer, Dominicus Marius Niger, who sheweth how many wayes the Indian Sea stretcheth it selfe, making in that place, recitall of certaine Indians, that were likewise driuen through the North Seas from India, vpon the coasts of Germanie, by great tempest, as they were sayling in trade of Merchandize. Pag. 590.

5 Also, whiles Frederic Barbarossa raigned Emperour, Anno D. 1160. there came certeine other Indians, vpon the coaste of Germanie. Auouched by *Franciscus Lopes de Gomara* in his historie of *India*.

6 Likewise, Othon, in the storie of the Gothes affirmeth, that in the time of the Germane Emperours, ther were, also certain Indians cast by force of weather, vpon the coast of the said Countrey: which foresaid Indians, coulde not possiblie haue come by the Southeast, Southwest, nor from any part of Afrik, or America, nor yet by the Northeast: therfore they came of necessity, by this our Northvvest passage.

To prooue that these *Indians* afore named, came not by the Southeast, Southvvest, nor from any other part of Afrik, or America.

Cap. 5.

1
First, they coulde not come frō the Southvvest, by C. debuona Speranca, because ỹ roughnes of the Seas there, are such (occasioned by the Currants, and great windes, in that part) that the greatest Armados, the king of Portingale hath, cannot without great difficulty passe that way: muchlesse then a Canoa of India coulde liue

liue in those outragious Seas, without Shipwracke (beeing a vessell but of verie small burden) and haue conducted themselues to the place aforesaide, beeing men vnexpert in the Art of Nauigation.

2 Also, it appeareth plainely, that they were not able, to come from alongest the coast of Afrik aforesaide, to those partes of Europe, because the winds do (for the most part) blow ther Easterlie, of from the shore, and the Currante running that way, in like sort, should haue driuen them VVest-vvard, vpon some part of America, for such windes and Tydes, could neuer haue led thē from thence, to the said place where they were found. Nor yet could they haue come from any of the Countries aforesaid keeping the Seas alwayes without skilfull Mariners, to haue conducted them such like courses, as were necessarie, to perfourme such a voyage.

3 Presupposing also, if they had bene driuē to the vvest (as they must haue beene cōming that way) then they should haue perished, wanting supplie of victuals, not hauing any place (once leauing the coaste of Afrik) vntil they came to America: nor

from America, vntil they arriued vpõ some part of Europe, or the Ilandes adioyning to it, to haue refreshed themselues.

4 Also, if (notwithstanding such impassibilities) they might haue recouered Germanie, by comming from India, by the South east, yet must they, without al doubt, haue striken vpon some other part of Europe, before their arriual there, as the Iles of Madera, Portingal, Spaine, Fraunce, England, Ireland, &c. which if they had done, it is not credible, that they should, or would haue departed, vndiscouered of the inhabitãts: but there was neuer found in these dayes, any such Ship or men, but onely vpon the coasts of Germanie, where they haue bene sundrie times, and in sundrie ages cast a land: Neither is it like, that they woulde haue committed themselues againe to Sea, if they had so arriued, not knowing wher they were, nor whither to haue gon.

Why the Indians coulde not come by the South west

5 And by the Southwest it is as vnpossible, because the currant afore saide, which commeth from the East, striketh with such force vpon the fret of Magellan, and falleth with such swiftnes and furie, into Mare del Sur, that hardly any ship (but not possible

a Canoa, with such vnskilfull Mariners) can come into our vvesterne Ocean, thorow that fret, from the vvest Seas of America, as Magellans experience hathe partly taught vs.

6 And further, to proue that these people, so arriuing vpõ the coast of Germanie, were Indians, and not inhabiters of anye part, either of Africa, or America, it is manifest: because the Natiues both of Africa & America, neither had, or haue, at this day (as is reported) other kinde of boates, thẽ such as do beare neither masts, nor sayls, (except onely vpon the Coastes of Barbarie and the Turks Shippes) but do carie themselues from place to place, neere the shore, by the ore onely.

That the Indians could not be natiues either of Africa, or of America.

A newe passage

¶ To proove that those *Indians* came not by the Northeast, & that ther is no thorow Navigable passage that way.

Cap. 6.

1 IT is lykelie that there should be no thorowe passage by the Northeast, whereby to goe rounde about the worlde: because al seas (as aforesaide) are maintained by the abundance of water, waxing more shallow and shelfie towards the end, as we finde, it doth by experience, in Mare Glaciali, towards the East, which breedeth smal hope of any great continuance, of that Sea, to be Navigable towardes the East, sufficient to sayle thereby, rounde about the worlde.

Quicquid naturali loco primatur, quam citissimè corrumpitur.

2 Also, it standeth scarcely with reason, that the Indians dwelling vnder Torrida Zona, could indure the iniurie of the colde ayre, about the Septentrional latitude of 80 degrees, vnder which elevation, the passage by the Northeast, cannot be (as the often

ten experience had of al the South parts of it shaweth) seeing that some of the inhabitants of this colde Climat (whose summer is to them an extreame winter) haue bene stroken to death, with the colde damps of the ayre, about 72 degrees, by an accidental mishappe: and yet the ayre in such like Eleuation is alwayes colde, and to colde for suche as the Indians are.

Qualis causa talis effectus.

3 Furthermore, the pearcing colde of the grose thicke ayre so neere the Pole, will so stiffen and furre the sayles, and shippe tackling, that no Mariner can either hoise or strike them (as our experience farre nerer the South, then this passage is presupposed to be, hath taught vs) without the vse whereof no voyage can be performed.

4 Also, the ayre is so darkened, with continual mysts, and fogges, so neere the Pole, that no man can well see, either to guide his shippe, or direct his course.

5 Also the compasse at such eleuation, doth verie sodenly varie: which thinges must of force, haue bene their destructions, although they had beene men of muche more skil then the Indians are.

Similium similis est ratio.

6 Moreouer al Bayes, Gulfes and riuers, doe receiue their increase vpon the fludde, sensibly to be discerned, on the one side of the shoare, or the other, as many wayes as they be open to any maine sea, as Mare Mediterraneum, Mare Rubrum, Sinus Persicus, Sinus Bodicus, Thamisis, and al other knowen Hauens, or riuers in any part of the world: & eche of them opening but on one part to ỹ mayne sea, do likwise receiue their encreale vpon the fludde, the same way, & none other, which Mare Glaciale doth, onely by the VVest (as M. Iynkinson affirmed vnto me) and therefore it followeth that this Northeast sea, receiuing increase but onely from the VVest, cannot possibly open to the maine Ocean, by the East.

It may perhaps be found otherwise in some one ryuer, by reason of a bare in the entrance or some other like accident.

7 Moreouer, the farther you passe into any sea, towardes the end of it, on that parte which is shutte vp from the mayne Sea (as in all those aboue mentioned) the lesse and lesse the Tydes rise and fall. The like whereof also happeneth in Mare Glaciale, which proueth but small continuance of that sea, toward the East.

8 Also, the farther ye goe towarde the East, in Mare Glaciale, the lesse salte the wa-

ter

ter is: whiche coulde not happen, if it were open to the salte Sea towardes the Easte, as it is to the VVeste onely, seeing (Euerie thinge naturally ingendereth his lyke) & then must it bee like salte throughout, as all the Seas are, in such like Climate, and Eleuation.

Quicquid corrumpitur a contrario corrumpitur.

And therfore it seemeth, that this North east sea is maintained by the riuer Oby, & such like freshets as Mare Goticū, & Mare Mediterraneum, in ỹ vppermost parts therof, by ỹ riuer Nil⁹, Danubius, Neper, Tanais. &c.

Omne simile gignis sui simile.

9 Furthermore, if there were any such sea at that eleuation, of like it should be alwayes frosen throughout (there being no tydes to hinder it) because the extreame coldnes of the ayre in the vppermost part, & the extreame coldnes of the earth in the bottome, the sea there being but of small depth, whereby the one accidental coldnes doth meete with the other, and the sunne not hauinge their reflection so neere the Pole, but at verie blunt angles, it can neuer bee dissolued after it is frosen, notwithstandinge the great length of their day: for that the sunne hath no heate at al in his light, or beams, but proceding only

by an accidentall reflection, whiche there wanteth in effect.

10 And yet if the sunne were of sufficient force in that eleuation, to preuaile against this Isle, yet must it be broke before it can be dissolued, which cannot be but through the long continuance of the sunne aboue their Horizon, and by that time the sumner would be so farre spent, and so great a darkenes and colde insue, that no man could be able to endure so colde, darke, and discomfortable a Nauigation, if it were possible for him then, and there to liue.

11 Further, the Isle being once broken, it must of force, so driue with the windes and Tydes, that no ship can sayle in those Seas, seeing our fishers of Island, and the Newe found Land, are subiect to daunger, thorowe the great Ilandes of Isle, whiche fleete in the Seas, (to the saylers great daunger) farre to the South of that presupposed Passage.

12 And it cannot be, that this North-east passage should be any nerer the South, then before recited, for then it shoulde cut of Ciremissi, and Turbi, Tartarij, with Vze-

ſucani, Chiſani, and others from the Continent of Aſia, which are knowen to be adioyning to Scythia, Tartaria, &c. with the other part of the ſame Continent.

And if there were any thorough paſſage by the Northeaſt, yet were it to ſmall purpoſe for our traffike, becauſe no ſhippe of greate burden, can Nauigate in ſo ſhallowe a Sea: and ſhippes of ſmall burden are very vnfit and vnprofitable, eſpecially towardes the blusteringe North, to performe ſuche a voyage.

To proue that the *Indians* afore named, came onely by the Northvvest, which inducethe a certeintie of our passage by experience.

Cap. 7.

IT is as likely, that they came by the Northvvest, as it is vnlikely that they should come, either by the Southeast, Southvvest, Northeast, or from any other parte of Africa, or America, and therefore this Northvvest passage, hauing bene already so many wayes proued, by disprouing of the others, &c. I shal the lesse nede in this place, to vse many wordes otherwise thē to conclude in this sort, That they came onely by the Northvvest from England: hauinge these many reasons to leade mee therunto.

1 Firste, the one halfe of the windes of the compasse, might bring them by the Northvvest, bearinge alwayes betweene two sheats, with which kinde of saylinge ỹ Indians are only acquainted, not hauing any vse of a bowe, line, or quarter winde, with-

without ỹ which no ship can possibly come either by the Southeast, Southwest, or North east, hauing so many sundrie capes to double, whereunto are required such chaunge and shift of windes.

2 And it seemeth likely, that they should come by the Northvvest, because the Coast whereon they were driuen, lay East from this our passage, And all windes, do naturally driue a Shippe to an opposite point, from vvhence it blovveth, not beeing otherwise guided by Art, which the Indians do vtterly want. And therefore it seemeth, that they came directly thorowe this our fret, which they might doe with one winde.

True, both in *ventis obliquè flantibus*. as also, *in ventis ex diametro spirantibus*.

3 For if they had come by Cap. de buona Speranca, then must they (as aforesaid) haue fallen vpon the South partes of America.

4 And if by the fret of Magellan, then vpon the coastes of Afrik, Spaine, Portingal, Fraunce, Ireland, or England.

5 And if by the Northeast, then vpon the coasts of Cerecamissi, Tartarij, Lappia, Island, Terra de Labrador, &c. & vpon these coasts, (aforesaid) they haue neuer bene found.

So that by all likelyhood, they coulde neuer haue come, without shipwracke, vpon the coasts of Germanie, if they had first striken vpon the coastes of so manie countreys, wanting both Art and shipping, to make orderly discouerie: and altogether ignorant both in the Art of Nauigation, & also of the Rockes, Flats, Sands, or Hauens of those parts of the world, which in most of these places are plentifull.

6 And further it seemeth very likely, that the inhabitants of the most parte of those countries, by which they must haue come, any other way besides, by the North vvest, being for the most part Anthropophagi, or men eaters, woulde haue deuoured them, slaine them, or (at the leaste wise) kept them as wonders for the gaze.

So that it plainly appeareth, that those Indians (which, as you haue heard, in sundrie ages were driuen by tempest, vpon the shore of Germanie) came onely through our Northvvest passage.

7 Moreouer, the passage is certeinely prooued, by a Nauigation that a Portingal made, who passed thorow this fret: giuing

uing nameto a Promontorie far within the same, calling it after his owne name, Promontoria Corterialis, neere adioyning vnto Polisacus fluuius.

8 Also one Scolmus a Dane, entred and passed a great part thereof.

9 Also there was one Salua Terra, a Gentleman of Victoria, in Spaine, that came by chaunce out of the VVest Indians, into Ireland, Anno, 1568. who affirmed the Northvvest passage from vs to Cataia, constantly to be beleeued in America, Nauigable. And further said, in the presence of S. Henry Sidney (thē Lord Deputie of Ireland) in my hearing, that a Frier of Mexico, called Andro Vrdaneta, more then viij. yeares, before his then comming into Ireland, tolde him there, that he came from Mare de Sur into Germanie, through this Northvvest passage, & shewed Salua Terra (at that time beeing then with him in Mexico) a Sea Carde made by his owne experience, and trauel, in that voyage: wherin was plainly set downe and described, this Northwest passage: agreeing in al pointes with Hortelius Mappe.

And further, this Frier, tolde the King of Portingal, (as he returned by that countrey homewarde) that there was (of certaintie) suche a passage, Northvveſt from England, and that he ment to publiſhe the ſame: which done, the King moſt earneſtly deſired him, not in any wiſe to diſcloſe, or make the paſſage knowen to any Nation: For that (ſaid the King) If England had knowledge, and experience thereof, it vvould greatly hinder both the King of Spaine, and me. This Frier (as Salua Terra repoꝛted) was the greateſt Diſcouerer by ſea, that hath bene in our age. Alſo Salua Terra, beinge perſwaded, of this paſſage by the Frier Vrdaneta, and by the common opinion of the Spaniardes, inhabiting America, offered moſt willingly to accompanie me in this Diſcouerie: which of like hee woulde not haue done, if he had ſtoode in doubt thereof.

The wordes of the King of Portingal, to Andro Vrdaneta a Frier, touchinge the concealing of this Northweſt paſſage From Englād to Catai.

And now as theſe moderne experiences, cannot be impugned: So, leaſt it might be obiected, that theſe thinges (gathered out of auncient wꝛiters, which wꝛote ſo many yeres paſt) might ſerue little to pꝛoue this paſſage, by the North of America, becauſe both America and India, were to them then vtterly vnknowen to remoue this doubt, let

An Obiection

let this suffise: That Aristotle, (who was 390. yeres before Christ) named Mare Indicum. Also Berosus (who liued 330 yeres before Christ) hath these words, e Ganges in India. Also in the first Chapter of Hester be these words, In the dayes of Assuerus which ruled from India, to AEthiopia: which Assuerus liued 580 yeres before christ. Also Quintus Curtius (where he speaketh of the Conquests of Alexander) mẽcioneth India. Also, Arian° Philostratus, & Sidrach in his discourses of the warres of the king of Bactria, & of Garaab, who had the most part of India vnder his gouernmẽt. All which assureth vs, that both India, and Indians were knowen in those dayes.

Aristotle. lib. de mundo, cap secund.

Berosus lib. 5.

These things cõsidered, we may (in my opinion) not only assure our selues of this passage, by ỹ Northwest, but also ỹ it is nauigable, both to come & goe, as hath beene proued in part & in al, by the experience of diuers, as Sebastian Gabota, Corterialis, the three brethren aboue named, the Indians, and Vrdaneta the Frier of Mexico, &c.

And yet notwithstanding al which, there be some that haue a better hope of this passage to Cataia, by ỹ Northeast, then by ỹ vvest: whose reasons, with my seuerall answers, ensue in the Chapter following.

A newe passage

Certaine reasons, alledged for the prouing of a passage by the North-east, before the Queenes Maiestie, and certaine Lordes of the Counsell, with my seuerall answeres, then vsed to the same.

Cap. 8.

BEcause you may vnderstande, aswell those thinges alledged against me, as what doth serue for my purpose, I haue here added the reasons of a worthy Gentleman, and a great traueller, who conceiued a better hope of the passage to Cataia, from vs, to bee by the Northeast, then by the Northvvest: whom I haue not named in this place, because I seeke to impugne his opinions, as followeth.

The North-west Passage assented vnto.

He first said, that he thought not to the contrarie, but that there was a passage by the Northvvest, according to mine opinion: But assured he was, that there might be founde a Nauigable passage, by the Northeast from England, to go to al the

East

East partes of the worlde: which he endeuoured to prooue three wayes.

The first was, that he heard a fisherman of Tartaria say, in hunting the Morce, that he sayled very far towards the South-east, finding no ende of the Sea: whereby hee hoped a thorowe passage to bee that way.

The first reason.

The Morce, is a kinde of fish which the Tartarians do often hunt by water, & greatly seeke to kil

Whereunto I answered, that the Tartarians were a barbarous people, and vtterly ignorant in the Art of Nauigation, not knowing the vse of the sea, Carde, compasse, or starre, which he confessed true: and therefore they couide not (saide I) certainly know the Southeast, from the Northeast, in a wide sea, and a place vnknowen, from the sight of the land.

The answere, or resolution.

Or if he sailed any thing nere the shore, yet he (being ignorant) might be deceiued by the doubling of many points & Capes, and by the trending of the land: Albeit he kept continually alongst the shore.

And further, it might be, that the poore fisherman through simplicitie, thought that there was nothing that way but sea,

becanse he saw no land: which proofe (vnder correction) giueth smal assurance of a Nauigable sea by the Northeast, to goe roundabout the worlde, For that he iudged by the eye onely, seeinge wee in this our cleare ayre doe accompt 20 myles a ken at Sea.

Visus nonnunquam fallitur in suo obiecto.

The second reason or allegation.

His second reason is, that there was a Vnicornes horne founde vpon the coaste of Tartaria, which could not come (saide he) thither, by any other meanes, then with the Tides, through some fret in the North east of Mare Glaciale, there being no Vnicorne in any parte of Asia, sauing in India, & Cataia: which reason (in my simple iudgement) forceth as litle.

The answere, or resolution.

First it is doubtful, whether those barbarous Tartarians doe know an Vnicorns horne, ye, or no: and if it were one, yet it is not credible, that the sea could haue driue it so farre, being of such nature that it will not swimme.

Also the Tydes running to and froe, would haue driuen it as farre backe with the ebbe, as it brought it forwarde with the fludde.

There

There is also a beast called Asinus Indicus (whose horne most like it was) whiche hath but one horne, like an Vnicorne, in his forehead, whereof there is great plentie, in al the Notth parts therevnto adioyning: as in Lappia, Noruegia, Finmarke, &c. as Iacobus Zeiglerus writeth, in his historie of Scondia.

Omne simile, non est idem.

And as Albertus saith, there is a fishe, which hath but one horne in his forehead like to an Vnicorne, and therforeit seemeth very doubtful, both from whence it came, and whether it were an Vnicornes horne, yea, or no.

Nulla ratio, ab Ambigno certa sed fallax.

His thirde and last reason was, that there came a continual streame, or currant through Mare Glaciale, of such swiftnesse (as a Colmax tolde him) that if you cast any thing therin, it would presently be caried out of sight, towards the VVest.

The thirde and last reason or Assertion.

Colmaxes are a people inhabiting the North part of Asia.

Wherunto I answered, that there doth the like from Mæotis Palus, by Pontus Euxinus, Sinus, Bosphorus, and along the coaste of Græcia, &c. As it is affirmed by Contarenus, and diuers others, that haue had experience of the same: and yet that sea, lieth

The answere, or resolution.

not open to any maine sea that way, but is maintained by fresshets, as by Tanijs, Danubius, &c.

In like maner is this currant in Mare Glaciale increased, and maintained, by the Volgo, the riuer Oby, &c.

Now as I haue here briefly recited the reasons alledged, to prooue a passage to Cataia, by the Northeast, with my seuerall answeres thereunto: so will I leaue it to your iudgement, to hope or dispaire of either, at your pleasure.

How

¶ How that the passage by the Northvvest, is more commodious for our traffik, then the other by the East: if there were any such.

Cap. 9.

FIRST, by the Northeaste (if your windes doe not giue you a marueylous speedie, and luckie passage) you are in daunger (being so nere the Pole) to be benighted, almost the one halfe of the yeare, and what miserie and daunger that were, to liue so long comfortlesse, voyde of light, (if the colde killed you not) eche man of reason or vnderstanding may iudge.

2 Also Mangia, Quingit, and the Molluccæ, are neerer vnto vs by the Northvvest, then by the Northeast, more then $\frac{2}{5}$ parts which is almost by the halfe.

3 Also wee may haue by the VVest, a yerely returne, it being at al times Nauigable, whereas you haue but six moneths, in the whole yere, to goe by the Northeast:

the passage beinge at such eleuation, as it is formerly expressed, for it cannot be any neerer the South.

4 Furthermore, it cannot be finished without diuers wintrings by the way, hauing no hauens in any temperate Climate, to harbour in ther. For it is as much as we can well sayle, from hence to S. Nicholas, in the trade of Muscouia, and return in the Nauigable season of the yeare, and frõ S. Nicholas to Cerimissi Tartarij, which standeth at 80 degrees of the Septentrional latitude, itis at the least 400 Leagues, which amounteth scarce to the thirde part of the way, to the ende of your voyage by the Northeast.

5 And yet after you haue doubled this Cape, if then there might be found a nauigable sea, to cary you Southeast, according to your desire, yet can you not winter conueniently, vntil you come to 60 degrees, & to take vp one degree running Southeast, you must sayle 24 leagues ¾ which amounteth to 495 leagues.

6 Furthermore, you may by the Northwest, saile thither with al Easterly winds, & returne with any vvesterly windes, whereas

as you must haue by the Northeast sundrie windes, & those proper, according to the lying of the coastes and capes, you shalbe inforced to double, which windes are not alwayes to be had, when they are looked for: wherby your iourney should be greatly prolonged, and hardly endured so nere the Pole. As we are taught by Sir Hugh VViloughbie, who was frosē to death far nerer the South.

7 Moreouer, it is very doubtfull, whether we should long inioy that trade by ȳ Northeast, if there were any such passage that way, the cōmodities therof once known to the Muscouite, what priuelege soeuer he hath graunted, seeing policie with the Maze of excessiue gaine, to the enriching (so greatly) of himselfe and all his dominions, would persuade him to resume the same, hauing so great opportunitie, to vtter the commodities of those countreys by the Narue.

But by the Northvvest, wee may safely trade without daunger, or anoyance, of any prince liuing, Christian, or heathen, it being out of al their trades.

8 Also ȳ Queenes Maiesties dominions, are nerer the Northwest passage, them any

other great princes that might passe that way, and both in their going and returne, they must of necessitie succour themselues and their shippes, vpon some parte of the same, if any tempestious weather shoulde happen.

Further, no Princes Nauie of the world, is able to encounter the Queenes Maiesties Nauie, as it is at this present: and yet it should be greatly increased, by the traffike ensuing vpon this discouerie, for it is the long voyages, that increase and maintaine great shipping.

Now it seemeth necessarie, to declare what commodities would grow thereby, if al these things were, as we haue heretofore presupposed, & thought them to be: which next adioyning are briefly declared.

VVhat

¶ VVhat commodities woulde enſue, this paſſage once diſcouered.

Cap. 10.

1 Irſt, it were the onely way for our Princes, to poſſeſſe ỹ welth of all the East partes (as they tearme them) of the worlde, which is infinite: as appeareth by the experience of Alexander the great, in the time of his conqueſt of India, and other the East partes of the worlde, alledged by Quintus Curtius, which would be a great aduaunceiment to our Countrie, wonderfull inriching to our Prince, and vnſpeakeable commodities to all the inhabitants of Europe.

2 For through the ſhortneſſe of the voyage, we ſhould be able to ſell all maner of Merchandize, brought from thence, far better cheape, then either the Portingal, or Spaniarde doth, or may doe: And further, ſhare with the Portingal in the East, & the Spaniarde in the VVeſt, by trading to any part of America, through Mare de Sur, wher they can no maner of way offend vs.

3 Also we may saile to diuers marueilous riche Countries, both Ciuil and others, out of both their iurisdictions, trades & traffiks, where ther is to be foūd great aboundance of gold, siluer, pzecious stones, Cloth of golde, silkes, all maner of Spices, Grocery wares, and other kindes of Merchandize, of an inestimable pzice: which both the Spaniarde, and Portingal, thzough the length of their iourneys, can not well attaine vnto.

4 Also we might inhabite soune parte of those Countreys, and settle there suche needie people of our Countrie, which now trouble the common welth, and thzough want here at home, are inforced to commit outragious offences, whereby they are dayly consumed with the Gallowes.

5 Moreouer, we might from all the aforesaid places, haue a yerely retourne, inhabiting foz our staple some conuenient place of America, about Sierra Neuada, oz some other part, wheras it shal seeme best foz the shortening of the voyage.

6 Beside the vttering of our Countrie commodities, which the Indians, &c. much esteeme

esteeme: as appeareth in Hester where the pompe is expressed, of the great King of India, Assuerus, who matched the coloured clothes, wherewith his houses and tents, were apparelled, with golde and siluer, as part of his greatest treasure: not mencioning either veluets, silkes, cloth of golde, cloth of siluer, or suche like, being in those countreys most plentiful: wherby it plainly appeareth, in what great estimation, they woulde haue the clothes of this our countrey, so that there would be founde a farre better vent for them, by this meanes, then yet this realme euer had: and that without depending, either vpon Fraunce, Spaine, Flaunders, Portingal, Hamborovve, Emdem, or any other part of Europe. Hester. cap. 2.

7 Also, hereby we shall increase, both our shippes, and mariners, without burdening of the state.

8 And also haue occasion, to set poore mens children, to learne handie craftes, & therby to make trifles and such like, which the Indians and those people doe muche esteeme: By reason whereof, there should be none occasion, to haue our countrey combred with loyterers, vagabonds, and such like idle persons.

All these commodities would growe, by following this our Discouerie, without iniurie done to any Christian prince, by crossing them in any of their vsed trades, whereby they might take any iust occasion of offence.

Thus haue I briefly shewed you, some part of the groundes of mine opinion, trusting that you wil no longer iudge me fantastike in this matter: seeing I haue conceiued no hope of this voyage, but am persuaded thereunto, by the best Cosmographers of our age, the same being confirmed, both by reason and certaine experiences.

Also this discouerie, hath bene diuers times heretofore by others, both offered attempted, and performed.

It hath bene offred by Stephen Gomes vnto Carolus the fifth Emperour, in the yere of our Lord God 1527. as Alphõso Vlloa testifieth, in ẏ story of Carolus life: who would haue set him forth in it (as the storie mencioneth) if ẏ great want of money, by reasõ of his long warres, had not caused him to surcesse the same.

And

And the king of Portingal, fearing lest the Emperour woulde haue perseuered in this his enterprise, gaue him, to leaue the matter vnattempted, the sum of 350000 Crownes: and it is to be intended that the king of Portingal, would not haue giuen to the Emperour, such summes of money for egges in mooneshine. This discouerie offered.

It hath bene attempted by Corterialis the Portingal, Scolmus the Dane, and by Sebastian Gabota, in the time of king Henry the seuenth. This discouerie attempted.

And it hath beene performed, by the three brethren, the Indians aforesaide, and by Vrdaneta, the Frier of Mexico. This discouerie performed.

Also diuers haue offered the like, vnto the Frenche King, who hath sent two or three times to haue discouered the same. The discouerers, spending & consuming their victuals, in searching the gulfes, & bayes, betweene Florida, and Terra de Labrador, whereby the Ile is broken to the after commers.

So that the right way, may now easily be founde out, in short time: and that

with litle ioperdie and lesse expences.

For America is discouered, so farre towards the North as Cape Fredo, which is at 62 degrees, and that part of Grondland next adioyning, is knowen to stand but at 72. So that we haue but 10 degrees, to sayle North and South, to put the worlde out of doubt hereof: and it is likely, that the king of Spaine, and the king of Portingal, would not haue sate out al this while, but that they are sure to possesse to themselues, all that trade they now vse, and feare to deale in this Discouerie, least the Queenes Maiestie, hauing so good opportunitie, and finding the commoditie, which thereby might ensue to the common welth: woulde cutte them of, and enioye the whole traffique to her selfe, and thereby the Spaniardes and Portingals, with their great charges, should but beate the bushe, and other men catche the birds: which thinge they foreseeing, haue commaunded, that no Pylate of theirs, vpon payne of death, shoulde seeke to discouer to the Northvvest, or platte out in any sea carde, any thorowe passage that way, by the Northvvest.

The labour of this discouerie shortened by other mens trauel.

Why the king of Spaine and Portingal would not persseuer in this discouerie.

Now

Now, and if you wil indifferently, compare the hope that remaineth, to animate me to this enterprise, with those likelihoodes which Columbus alledged before Ferdinando, the King of Castilia, to proue that there were such Ilands in the vvest Ocean, as were after, by him and others discouered, to the great commoditie of Spaine and all the worlde: you will thinke then this Northwest passage, to be most worthy trauell therein.

For Columbus had none of the west Iláds set forth vnto him, either in globe, or card, neither yet once mencioned of any writer, (Plato excepted, and the commentaries vpon the same) from 942 yeres before Christ, vntil that day.

Moreouer, Columbus himself, had neither seene America or any other of the Ilands about it, neither vnderstoode he of them, by the report of any other that had seene thē, but onely cōforted himself with this hope, that the land had a beginninge, where the sea had an ending: For as touching that, which the Spaniards doe write of a Biscaine, which chuld hauetaught hī ẏ waythither, it is thought to be imagined of thē, to de-

Columbus of his honour, beeing none of their countrey men, but a stranger borne.

And if it were true of the Biscaine, yet did he but roue at the matter, or (at the least) gathered the knowledge of it, by coniectures onely.

And albeit, my selfe haue not seene this passage, or any part thereof, but am ignorant of it as touching experience, (as Columbus was before his attempt made) yet haue I, both the report, relation, and authoritie, of diuers most credible mẽ, which haue both seene and passed through some, and euerie part of this discouerie: besides sundrie reasons, for my assurance thereof: all which Columbus wanted.

These things considered, and indifferently wayed together, with the wonderful cõmodities which this discouerie may bring, especially to this realme of England: I must needes conclude with Hieronimus Fracastori⁹, & diuers other learned mẽ, who said, that this discouerie hath beene reserued, for some noble Prince, or worthy mã, therby to make himselfe rich, & the world happie: desiringe you to accept in good part,

part, this brieke and simple discourse, written in hast, which if I may perceiue, that it shal not sufficiently satisfie you in this behalfe, I will then imparte vnto you a large discourse, which I haue written only of this discouerie.

And further, because it sufficeth not, onely to know that such a thing there is, without abilitie to perfourme the same, I wil at more leasure make you partaker, of another simple discourse of Nauigation, wherein I haue not a litle trauelled, to make my selfe as sufficient, to bring these things to effect, as I haue bene readie to offer my selfe therein.

And therein I haue deuised to amende the errours of vsuall sea cardes, whose cõmõ fault is, to make the degrees of longitude, in euerie latitude, of one like bignes.

And haue also deuised therein, a Spherical instrument, with a compasse of variation, for the perfect knowing of the longitude.

And a precise order to prick the sea carde, together with certaine infallible rules for

the shortening of any discouerie, to know at the first entring of any fret, whether it lye open to the Ocean, more wayes then one, how farre soeuer the sea stretcheth it selfe, into the land.

Desiring you hereafter, neu er to mislike with me, for the taking in hand of any laudable and honest enterprise, for if through pleasure or idlenes we purchase shame, ẏ pleasure vanisheth, but the shame remaineth for euer.

And therefore to giue me leaue without offence, alwayes to liue and die in this minde, That he is not vvorthie to liue at all, that for feare, or daunger of death, shunneth his countrey seruice, and his ovvne honour. seeing death is ineuitable, and the fame of vertue immortall. Wherfore in this behalfe, Mutare vel timere sperno.

Perias qui vmbrae timet.

FINIS.

Faultes escaped in the printing.

Cap. 2. C. page 2. Line 6. for Occidental, reade Accidental. In the same Cap. C. page 8. Line 28. for by reade and. Cap. 5. D. page, 8. Line, 3. For Southwest, reade, Southeast, cap. 8. G. page, 1. line, 17. for northeast, reade Northwest.

TVRPITER

FIERI POTEST. DESPERATVR

QVICQVID

These Bokes are to be solde
at the shop of Richard Iones,
at the VVest ende of Saint Paules
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and Lollards Tower.

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